

## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

## GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

December 6th, 1922.—Prof. A. C. Seward, Sc.D., F.R.S., President, and afterwards Mr. R. D. Oldham, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following communication was read :—

‘On a Collection of Fossil Plants from the Falkland Islands.’  
By Albert Charles Seward, Sc.D., F.R.S., Pres.G.S., and John Walton, B.A.

The collection of fossil plants submitted to the Authors for examination was made by Dr. H. A. Baker at several localities in East and West Falkland, and in Speedwell and George Islands (south of East Falkland). It includes a few fragments of Lepidodendroid stems too imperfect for specific determination: an examination of the specimens and a comparison of some other plant-remains, previously described by Dr. T. G. Halle, with plants from other countries lead the Authors to suggest a Devonian age for the oldest plant-bearing beds.

Numerous examples of *Glossopteris* leaves were collected, especially in Lafonia, and these are referred to *Glossopteris indica* Schimper and *G. browniana* Brongniart, species which are not confined to one geological series in the Gondwana System. Many specimens of Equisetaceous stems were also obtained from the *Glossopteris* Beds: of these several are clearly identical with Falkland examples described by A. G. Nathorst and by T. G. Halle, while others are compared with an Upper Triassic or Rhætic species *Neocalamites carrerei* (Zeiller). The examination of some well-preserved wood from Choiseul Sound enables the Authors to amplify the account given by Halle, of wood which is closely allied to that discovered by Dr. Baker. A comparison of petrified wood, most of which has been assigned by various writers to the genus *Dadoxylon*, from different parts of Gondwanaland, points to the prevalence in the southern botanical province of trees differing in certain anatomical characters from contemporary plants in the northern province. The present Authors' conclusion is that the Permo-Carboniferous flora as a whole, so far as it is possible to base an opinion on the few species represented, agrees most nearly with the Damuda and Beaufort Series of India and South Africa respectively. The stems compared with *Neocalamites* favour a reference of the beds at Cygnet Harbour and Egg Harbour to a somewhat higher position; and, on the other hand, the leaves described as *Glossopteris indica* Schimper (cf. *G. decipiens* Feistmantel) from North Arm, although they represent a type which has a wide range both in space and in time, suggest a possible correlation with the Ecce Series of South Africa and the Talchir Series of India.